

BUFFALOBERRY PATCH

BY GREG FREEMAN, DEPARTMENT NEWS EDITOR

Sign Up for Hunter Education Classes Online

People interested in signing up for a hunter education class can register online on the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's website.

"This is a much needed service," said Jim Carter, Department hunter education supervisor. "It allows the individual to view current statewide courses, and to enroll in a particular course."

Access the Game and Fish home page at discovernd.com/gnf, and click on "hunter education online course enrollment." To sign up for a class, click on "list of hunter education courses." The hunter education menu also has links to "find my enrollment" and "find my North Dakota hunter education number."

Classes are listed by city and can also be sorted by start date. To register for a class, click "enroll" next to the specific class, and follow the simple instructions. Personal information is required.

Students may sign up for only one course. "If something happens where a person cannot attend a course, they will have to go back in and delete their registration," Carter said. "The menu allows the enrollee to add, view, delete or print individual information."

There are some classes listed where online enrollment is not an option. In this instance, registration is required by calling the telephone number listed next to the hunter education instructor's name.

Those who do not have access to the Internet and want to sign up for a class can call the hunter education division in Bismarck at 328-6615. Registration at retail stores is no longer available, Carter said.

Persons born after 1961 must complete a certified state or provincial hunter education course in order to purchase a hunting license in North Dakota.

More Geese Taken in Early Season

Despite fewer hunters in the field, North Dakota's 2004 early Canada goose season was considered a success, as more birds were taken than in 2003.

An estimated 6,720 hunters harvested 24,930 Canada geese during the 2004 season, compared to 6,870 hunters and 20,500 birds in 2003.

Surveys for the September 1-15 season showed hunters averaged 2.67 days afield and 3.71 birds each. Geese were harvested in 48 counties, with most birds bagged in Stutsman County. Other top counties were Barnes, Sargent, Nelson and Ramsey.

Last year was the sixth year North Dakota held an early Canada goose management season designed to maintain or reduce resident Canada goose numbers. By holding the season in early September, the harvest consists primarily of local Canada geese, as migrants have yet to arrive in significant numbers.

More than 146,000 Canada geese have been harvested during the early September season since 1999.

FISHING FOR FREE

Looking for a great family outing that is sure to put a smile on a youngster's face? Then mark June 4-5 on your calendar.

That is the weekend North Dakota residents may fish without a license, except for paddlefish. All other fishing regulations apply.

Refer to the 2004-2006 North Dakota Fishing Guide for season information.

2004 Bighorn Sheep, Moose, Elk Harvests

North Dakota's bighorn sheep, moose and elk hunters had successful 2004 hunting seasons. Harvest statistics released by the State Game and Fish Department show overall hunter success was 100 percent for bighorn sheep, 86 percent for moose and 46 percent for elk.

Two bighorn sheep units were open in 2004. One license was issued south of Interstate 94 and two north of the interstate. The auction license holder was able to hunt both open areas. All four hunters tagged adult rams.

The Department issued 135 moose licenses last year. Of that total, 116 hunters were successful, taking 65 bulls and 51 cows/calves. Harvest for each unit follows:

Hunting Licenses			
Unit	Issued	Bulls	Cow/Calf
M1C	10	6	2
M4	26	6	13
M5	8	4	4
M6	16	12	1
M8	40	21	15
M9	20	10	7
M10	15	6	9

Of 217 elk licenses issued last year, 100 hunters harvested 63 bulls and 37 cows/calves. Harvest for each unit follows:

Hunting Licenses			
Unit	Issued	Bulls	Cow/Calf
E1	40	4	9
E2	91	26	19
E3	20	14	1
E4	66	19	8

Senator Dorgan Receives Conservation Award

North Dakota Senator Byron Dorgan was honored for his leadership in championing federal funding for state-based wildlife conservation under the State Wildlife Grants program.

The award recognizes his role in helping to establish the nation's core program for preventing wildlife from becoming endangered in every state and territory.

State Wildlife Grants provide funding for on-the-ground conservation projects. Over the last five years, Congress has provided almost \$340 million to the program.

Senator Dorgan received the award in March during the Teaming with Wildlife Fly-In Days, an annual event held by the Teaming with Wildlife Coalition to educate Congress about the SWG program.

Private Land Options Available to Landowners

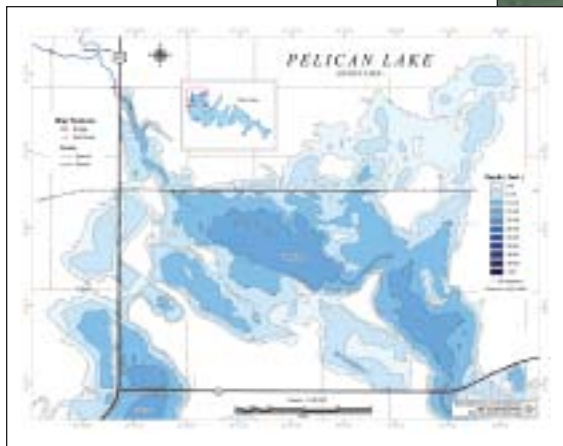
Many landowners are in the process of making land management decisions for the upcoming season. With that in mind, Kevin Kading, private land section leader for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, would like to remind landowners about programs available through the Department's Private Land Initiative.

"We have a variety of habitat-based access programs available, depending upon the needs of the landowner," Kading said. "PLI provides cost-share assistance to landowners interested in improving or developing wildlife habitat on their land."

PLI has programs available for landowners who wish to retire or set aside land, as well as for working lands, in either short-term or long-term contracts. "The overall goal of all of these programs is to create wildlife habitat and provide public access opportunities to private land," Kading said.



RON WILSON



New Contour Lake Maps on Web

More than 120 state-of-the-art lake contour maps, including 60 recently added, are now available free on the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website at discovernd.com/gnf.

These high-tech colored maps, including Devils Lake and newly-added mid-sized reservoirs such as Heart Butte and Jamestown Reservoir, are featured in "Lake Contour Maps" under the "Map Services/GIS" link.

New maps are available in large and small sizes. Large maps show contour lines, man-made features such as boat ramps, roads and camping areas, and surrounding terrain taken from aerial photographs. Small maps show the same details, except surrounding terrain.

Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view and print maps. Maps are saved in PDF format.

In 2004, Kading said the Department received considerable interest in its new Working Lands Program, a short-term program designed for landowners who have quality wildlife habitat on their land, but do not want to take acreage out of production. "There are other programs, such as the habitat plot program, which is available for landowners who may be interested in planting grass, or already have existing wildlife habitat on their land," Kading said.

Department private land biologists can also assist private landowners in meshing Game and Fish programs with those from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including the Conservation Security Program, Wetland Reserve Program and Conservation Reserve Program.

For information regarding private land programs, landowners should contact a local private land biologist: Bismarck – Brandon Mason, 328-9548; Devils Lake – Brian Prince, 662-3617; Dickinson – Nate Harling, 227-7431; Williston – Ryan Huber, 774-4320; Riverdale – Jeff Long, 654-7475; Harvey – Caroline Littlefield, 324-2211; and in Jamestown – Nathaniel Umphrey, 253-6480.

NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS ON TELEVISION

Your Weekly Window on the WILD

Bismarck	KFYR	Tuesday	10 pm
Bismarck	KXMB	Sunday	10 pm
Bismarck	CATV	Thursday	Noon
Dickinson	KQCD	Tuesday	*9 pm
Dickinson	KXMA	Sunday	*9 pm
Fargo	KVRR	Sunday	9 pm
Grand Forks	WDAZ	Wednesday	5 pm
Minot	KMOT	Tuesday	10 pm
Minot	KXMC	Monday	Noon
Williston	KUMV	Tuesday	10 pm
Williston	KXMD	Monday	Noon

*Mountain time

NORTH DAKOTA RECORD FISH

Species	Weight	Where	When	Angler	Minimum Whopper Weight	Minimum Catch & Release Club
GAME FISH						
Northern Pike	37 lbs. 8 oz.	Sakakawea	1968	M. Slind, Roseglen	20 lbs.	32 inches
Walleye	15 lbs. 12 oz.	Wood Lake	1959	B. Chapman, Minnewaukan	8 lbs.	25 inches
Saugeye	11 lbs. 12 oz.	Sakakawea	1984	David Groth, Williston	8 lbs.	25 inches
Sauger	8 lbs. 12 oz.	Sakakawea	1971	M. Fischer, Chaseley	4 lbs.	20 inches
Yellow Perch	2 lbs. 15 oz.	Devils Lake	1982	Kyle Smith, Carrington	1 3/4 lbs.	
Bluegill	2 lbs. 12 oz.	Strawberry Lake	1963	B. Hystad, Velve	1 1/2 lbs.	
Crappie	3 lbs. 4 oz.	Lake Oahe	1998	Don Newcomb, Mandan	1 1/2 lbs.	
White Bass	4 lbs. 8 oz.	Devils Lake	2000	Jordon Neve, Albert Lea, MN	3 lbs.	
Largemouth Bass	8 lbs 7 1/2 oz.	Nelson Lake	1983	Leon Rixen, Minot	5 lbs.	18 inches
Smallmouth Bass	5 lbs. 15 oz.	Spiritwood Lake	2003	Roger Haugen, Jamestown	3 lbs.	16 inches
Tiger Muskie	40 lbs.	Gravel Lake	1975	Marvin Lee, Rolette	20 lbs.	40 inches
Muskellunge	46 lbs.	New Johns Lake	2003	Bill Wald, Washburn	20 lbs.	40 inches
Rainbow Trout	21 lbs. 4 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	1998	Wade Weltz, Anamoose	5 lbs.	21 inches
Brown Trout	31 lbs. 11 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	2005	Tim Johansen, Beulah	5 lbs.	21 inches
Cutthroat Trout	10 lbs. 1 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	2003	Chris Vernon, Bismarck	5 lbs.	21 inches
Lake Trout	14 lbs. 4 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	1982	Allen Leier, Bismarck	5 lbs.	
Chinook Salmon	31 lbs. 2 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	1986	Tom Schwartz, Beulah	12 lbs.	
Paddlefish	120 lbs.	Missouri River	1993	Brian W. Johnson, Williston	70 lbs.	
Channel Catfish	33 lbs. 4 oz.	Red River	1991	Bruce Pannkuk, Mpls., MN	12 lbs.	
Ling	18 lbs. 4 oz.	Knife River	1984	O. Kruckenberg, Hazen	8 lbs.	28 inches
NONGAME FISH						
Striped Bass	20 lbs. 12 oz.	Devils Lake	1993	Stephen Renault, Grand Forks		
Whitefish	8 lbs. 11 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	1984	Bill Mitzel, Bismarck	4 lbs.	
Cisco	2 lbs. 8 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	2000	Scott Borup, Jr. and Tylor Borup, Pick City	1 3/4 lbs.	
Flathead Catfish	29 lbs. 6 oz.	Heart River	1985	Kenneth Klein, Bismarck		
Bullhead	4 lbs. 1 oz.	Devils Lake	1988	Riley Zavada, Wolford	2 lbs.	
Drum	26 lbs. 2 oz.	Sakakawea	1988	Larry Harris, Sidney, MT.	6 lbs.	
Buffalo	40 lbs.	Lake Tschida	2002	Trey Opp, Mandan	15 lbs.	
Carp	31 lbs.	Sheyenne River	2003	Austin Loberg, Thompson	15 lbs.	
Goldeye	3 lbs. 13 oz.	New Johns Lake	1998	Craig Unser, Mandan	2 lbs.	

Whopper Club, Catch and Release Club, and all new state record fish entries must be legally caught on hook and line during the open fishing season.

WHOPPER CLUB REQUIREMENTS

Only species listed and meeting minimum weight requirements will qualify for patch and certificate.

All fish entered must have been harvested by legal methods as described in the North Dakota fishing guide and come from North Dakota waters.

Entries must be weighed on a scale used in trade. It is not necessary to have fish weighed at official Whopper Club Weigh Station.

An application card must be filled out, giving weight and length of fish, date and where caught, tackle and bait used (if applicable), signature of applicant, and signature of person weighing the fish. Only one application may be made for each species in a lifetime. You receive

a patch for the first whopper of a species, an Expert patch for a whopper of another species, and a Master patch for a whopper of the third species. After that only certificates will be awarded for whoppers of additional species.

STATE RECORD REQUIREMENTS

1. All new state record fish must be weighed on a scale used commercially and subject to certification by the Weights and Measures Division, North Dakota Public Service Commission.
2. The catch must be verified by an employee of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.
3. A recognizable photo must be furnished to the Department.

CATCH AND RELEASE CLUB REQUIREMENTS

Only 12 species of fish qualify for the Catch and Release Club. Entries must meet minimum length requirements and be released unharmed back to the water. Another fisherman must witness and verify the measurement and release.

The angler will receive an official membership certificate and a choice of jacket patch or boat decal. A "FIVE" patch or decal will be awarded for each additional five entries.

First Fish! Captures Memory

The first fish is a milestone, and preserving that moment is what the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's First Fish! program is all about.

While the fish may be a bluegill or a bull-head, it is more instrumental in developing a future angler's interests than all the lunker walleye in their lifetime. First Fish! provides a certificate specially designed to remind young anglers of this once-in-a-lifetime catch.

First Fish! has no qualifying weights or measurements. The only requirement is the successful landing of a North Dakota fish. Certificates are available to all who request them, and they have ample room for all the important information, such as name, age, lake and a short fish story. There's also space for a photograph that captures the moment.

Certificates are available for free by writing to First Fish!, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, 100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501-5095; or send an email to ndgf@state.nd.us.

Deer Applications Available in May

Deer applications for the 2005 deer gun, youth and muzzle-loader seasons will be available in May. The deadline for applying is June 8.

Applicants can access the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's website at discovernd.com/gnf to submit a lottery application online, or to print an application for mailing.

Lottery and gratis applications will be available at Game and Fish offices, county auditors and license vendors. You can also apply by calling 800-406-6409.

Conservation Education Volunteers Recognized

Volunteers contributed more than 9,900 hours to several North Dakota Game and Fish Department education programs last year. In all, 542 events were conducted, helping more than 27,000 people learn about boat safety, fishing and environmental education.

In February, the Game and Fish Department recognized the efforts of the many volunteers who make the agency's conservation education projects successful. These projects include Project WILD and Aquatics, Birds of North Dakota, Wildlife of North Dakota, Hooked on Fishing, Outdoor Wildlife Learning Sites and Boat and Water Safety.

Following is a summary of instructor of the year and service awards for 2004:

Project WILD Instructor of the Year – Archie Moore, Rogers. Moore has volunteered more than 250 hours and 17 events since he started with Project WILD in 1985.

Boating and Water Safety Instructor of the Year – Terri Greenwood, Westhope. Greenwood has taught 42 events to 723 participants. She has been a certified boat and water safety instructor for four years.

Fishing Instructor of the Year – Bob Haglund, Minot. Haglund has volunteered with more than 84 activities totaling 1,100 hours. He has been a fishing instructor for 12 years.

Aquatic Instructor of the Year – John Cote, Dickinson. Cote has conducted 37 events while recording 1,130 volunteer hours. He has been a volunteer since 2000.

OWLS Site of the Year – Little Britches Fishing Pond on the east side of Jamestown Reservoir, Gene Van Eeckhout, coordinator. This 20-acre OWLS site includes native grass, shrubs, trees and plum and chokecherry patches.

OWLS Coordinator of the Year – Wayne Beyer, Wahpeton. Beyer has conducted 15 events for 46 hours on four OWLS sites. He has been a volunteer instructor since 1992, holding 60 fishing, boating and birding events for more than 500 volunteer hours.



Archie Moore



Nancy Boldt, left, presents boating safety award to Terri Greenwood.



Bob Haglund



John Cote



Gene Van Eeckhout



Wayne Beyer

Years of Service Awards

15 years – Lee Johnson, Hillsboro; Bill Schaller, Killdeer.

10 years – Clinton Baxter, Minot; John Brauner, Jamestown; Bonni Gourneau, Grand Forks; Archie Moore, Rogers; Elizabeth Schaner, Center; Lynn Schlueter, Devils Lake; Jim Septon, Bowman.

Hunter Education Volunteers Recognized

Volunteer instructors for North Dakota's hunter education program were recognized in February for teaching students the importance of hunter safety and ethics.

Years of service and instructor of the year awards were presented to volunteers at the annual hunter education workshop and awards banquet in Bismarck. The instructor of the year award is based on years of service, classes taught, in-service training and community involvement with firearms safety.

Instructors of the year are Jim Schmitt, Casselton; Dale Bakkum, Ralph Peterson, Allan Kville, Larry Gander, Ron Grinde, all Mayville-Portland; and Dave Rensch, Mel Birkholz, Pat Stockdill, Daryl Simmons, Vern Ostby, and Jim Barow, all Garrison.

Volunteer hunter education instructors recognized for 10 or more years are:

25 years – Steve Bratlien, Tioga; Mardella Carter, Glen Ullin; Wayne Carter, Glen Ullin; Timothy Estes, Rugby; Larry Gander, Portland; Darrell Jamsa, Starkweather; Gary Lindemann, Bismarck; Glen Lueck, Lidgerwood; Leroy McCann, Grafton; Kent Pelton, Watford City; Kenneth Rehling, Hebron; James Schmitt, Casselton; Gordonna Toepke, New Salem; and Rodney Weigum, Zap.

20 years – Gaylon Hansen, Valley City; Dennis Helland, Kathryn; Roger Hollevoet, Devils Lake; Lee Johnson, Hillsboro; Mike Kiernan, West Fargo; James Lehse, Fargo; Allen Martin, Drake; Franz Pedersen, Valley City; Richard Smith, Williston; Roy Steiner, Mott; and Charles Vasicek, Bismarck.

15 years – Ray Aamold, Hatton; Dean Anderson, Grand Forks; Ronald Bartz, Elgin; Steve Beaudoin, Minot; Douglas Benson, Jamestown; Dale Bren, Elgin; Brenda Davis, Rhame; Gene Davis, Rhame; Leonard Enander, Granville; Edward Fritel, Cando; Mark Frost, Carrington; Joseph Heiser, Minot; Harold Jacobson, Max; Daryl Kleyer, Williston; Arvid Knutson, Park River; Jerome Koenig, Woodworth; Lawrence Kukla, Jamestown; Jack Lalor, Lidgerwood; David Nelson, Grand Forks; Darris Olson, Bowbells; Tim Phalen, Wyndmere; Vic Risovi, Cando; Scott Sundhagen, Tioga; David Urlacher, Dickinson; and Jeff Violett, Mandan.



Jim Schmitt, Casselton, (right) receives award from Game and Fish Director Dean Hildebrand.

10 years – Richard Anderson, Ray; Thomas Balsdon, Osnabrock; David Bremer, Finley; Merle Brink, Mandan; Keith Burwick, Dickinson; Warren Buss, Fargo; Shane Clausen, Minot; Robert Fagerstrom, Riverdale; Steve Hammes, Underwood; Guy Heffta, Adams; Theodore Hoberg, Grand Forks; Mark Hunt, Minot; Dan Imdieke, Linton; Larry Johnson, Belfield; Richard Linnertz, West Fargo; Bruce McComish, Riverdale; Bradley Moser, Medina; Joseph O'Meara, Hankinson; Paul Roeder, Milnor; Claude Sheldon, Park River; George Siroti, Belcourt; Douglas Sommerfeld, Lisbon; Mark Spravzoff, Watford City; William Titus, Lincoln; Larry Viall, Ray; Debbie Waldahl, Casselton; James Weight, Jamestown; Linda Weigum, Zap; and Mark Weyrauch, Ray.



Garrison Team, standing left to right: Jim Barrow, Vern Ostby, Mel Birkholz; seated Dave Rensch, Pat Stockdill, Daryl Simmons.



Mayville-Portland Team, left to right: Al Kville, Ralph Peterson, Larry Gander; not pictured Dale Bakkum, Ron Grinde.

25 year service group, standing left to right: Glen Lueck, Lidgerwood; Rod Weigum, Zap; Dean Hildebrand, Jim Schmitt, Casselton; Larry Gander, May-Port; seated left to right: Ken Rehling, Hebron; Gordy Toepke, New Salem; Kent Pelton, Watford City; Gary Lindemann, Bismarck; not pictured Steve Bratlien, Tioga; Mardella and Wayne Carter, Glen Ullin; Tim Estes, Rugby; Darrell Jamsa, Starkweather; LeRoy McCann, Grafton.

